

MAYOR PETER TORIGIAN
INAUGURAL ADDRESS
JANUARY 7, 1980

REVEREND CLERGY, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF PEABODY, IT IS BOTH AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY AS THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PEABODY.

THE CITIZENS OF OUR CITY HAVE PLACED THEIR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN ME TO ADMINISTER THE AFFAIRS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT, FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, AND I INTEND TO DO EVERYTHING HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THAT TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.

I NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE OUR CITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, THE PRAYERS FROM THE CLERGY, THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR CITIZENS, A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION FROM THE CITY COUNCIL, SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND OTHER MUNICIPAL AGENCIES, ALL WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD A BETTER COMMUNITY. THOSE OF US IN GOVERNMENT MAY DISAGREE FROM TIME TO TIME, AND AN HONEST DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IS UNDERSTANDABLE AS LONG AS

OUR ULTIMATE GOALS AND CONCERNS ARE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE WE REPRESENT.

THE TURMOIL AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS HAS CREATED A VERY DIFFICULT ATMOSPHERE FOR THOSE IN PUBLIC OFFICE. MANY TIMES THE MOST SINCERE EFFORTS ARE LOOKED UPON WITH SUSPICION. I BELIEVE IF WE ARE GOING TO IMPROVE OUR CITY IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO INCREASE OUR EFFORTS PROVING TO YOU THAT WE TRULY DO CARE.

THE NEXT TWO YEARS WILL NOT BE EASY. WITH INFLATION CAUSING OUR PURCHASING POWER TO DWINDLE AND RAISING HAVOC WITH OUR MUNICIPAL BUDGET, CONSOLIDATION OF RESOURCES AND INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY WILL BE NECESSARY TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN CITY GOVERNMENT. I SINCERELY BELIEVE THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS LAID THE FOUNDATION AND SET THE TEMPO FOR THIS TYPE OF GOVERNMENT.

EIGHT MONTHS AGO I STOOD AT THIS PODIUM AND OUTLINED MY GOALS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1979. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT TO YOU TODAY THAT IN MANY CASES THESE GOALS HAVE BEEN MET AND IN OTHER INSTANCES WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY TOWARDS MEETING THEM. WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT AN OPEN PROCESS FOR SELECTING DEPARTMENT HEADS AND BOARD MEMBERS MANY PEOPLE WERE SKEPTICAL. WE STATED QUALIFICATIONS NOT POLITICS WOULD BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR. WE MEANT WHAT WE SAID AND I WILL LET THE RECORD SPEAK FOR ITSELF.

I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF MY APPOINTMENTS AND BELIEVE IN A SHORT TIME THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE OUR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT/RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY. I WANT TO REMIND EVERY APPOINTEE/I WILL ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN A 100% EFFORT.

CONSOLIDATION OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES HAS BEEN A SUBJECT DISCUSSED FOR MANY YEARS. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT TODAY THAT RENOVATION OF CITY HALL/IS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. WITHIN A THREE TO FOUR MONTH PERIOD, CONSOLIDATION OF ALL MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL INTO THIS BUILDING WILL BE A REALITY, ALLOWING FOR A MORE EFFICIENT AND ACCOUNTABLE OPERATION. I WANT TO THANK THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN THIS EFFORT, WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE CLOSING OF THREE MUNICIPAL FACILITIES/AND THE SAVINGS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS.

WHEN I TOOK OFFICE THERE WAS A VOID IN THE AREA OF PROFESSIONAL PLANNING. RECOGNIZING THIS NEED WE LAUNCHED AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH FOR AN INDIVIDUAL/TO FILL THIS VOID, RESULTING IN THE SELECTION OF OUR NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, MR. GLEN GARBER. IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME HE HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY/TO PROVIDE THE DIRECTION THAT IS NEEDED IN THE PROPER DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTENNIAL PARK/AND THE SUCCESSFUL REVITALIZATION OF THE DOWNTOWN AREAS.

THE UPCOMING DEPARTURE OF ALAN TAUBERT, OUR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES, LEAVES THE CITY WITH A SIMILAR VOID. FINDING A REPLACEMENT WITH MR. TAUBERT'S TALENTS WILL BE A DIFFICULT TASK. THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL APPLY THE SAME PROCEDURE IN FILLING THIS POSITION AS IT HAS IN FILLING OTHER KEY POSITIONS.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT AND WILL NOT ~~/~~ TOLERATE BUCK PASSING BY VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS. TO ASSURE THE PROPER PERFORMANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, STAFF MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE ISSUES ~~/~~ BEFORE THEY BECOME PROBLEMS.

I WANT TO RENEW MY PLEDGE OF EIGHT MONTHS AGO TO IMPROVE OUR CITY'S IMAGE, AND I INTEND TO CONTINUE OUR CONCERTED EFFORTS TO RID THE CITY OF THOSE ELEMENTS ~~/~~ WHICH HAVE CAUSED US EMBARRASSMENT AND TARNISHED OUR IMAGE. I WANT TO COMMEND CITY SOLICITOR LARRY O'KEEFE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL MANNER IN WHICH HE HAS HANDLED THIS ISSUE ~~/~~ AND ALL OTHER CONCERNS OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, THE BOARD OF HEALTH AND THE LICENSING BOARD HAVE MADE IT CLEAR BY THEIR ACTIONS THAT THEY INTEND TO ENFORCE THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY. THEIR EFFORTS HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS.

THE FINANCIAL BURDEN PLACED UPON THE TAXPAYERS OF OUR CITY WAS A BITTER PILL FOR THIS ADMINISTRATION TO SWALLOW, BUT WE HAVE TAKEN A NUMBER OF NECESSARY STEPS THAT I BELIEVE WILL INSURE THAT WE WILL NOT FACE SUCH A BURDEN AGAIN. AMONG THE STEPS TAKEN HAVE BEEN CENTRALIZED PURCHASING, WHICH SAVES A MINIMUM OF \$50,000. A YEAR, A CONSOLIDATED INSURANCE COVERAGE WHICH THIS YEAR WILL SAVE \$110,000., CONTINUOUS MONITORING OF MUNICIPAL BUDGETS TO AVOID OVERRUNS, REVIEW OF THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET AND THE CUTTING BACK IN SOME AREAS HAS REALIZED A SAVING OF OVER \$300,000., AND IN THE SCHOOL BUDGET \$270,000. WAS FOUND WHICH WAS USED FOR PARTIAL FUNDING OF NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS. SIGNIFICANT DOLLARS HAVE BEEN SAVED BY NOT FILLING VACANCIES IN A NUMBER OF MUNICIPAL POSITIONS AS THEY OCCUR. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT COST SAVING MEASURES WHERE EVER POSSIBLE, TO PUT OUR CITY ON A SOUND FINANCIAL FOOTING.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT TWO YEARS WITH A GREAT DEAL OF ENTHUSIASM. I INTEND TO CONTINUE THE COURSE OF ACTION WE HAVE SET WITH EMPHASIS ON REORGANIZATION, REVITALIZATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

IN THE AREA OF REORGANIZATION I WANT TO ANNOUNCE THIS MORNING THAT I WILL BE SENDING A REQUEST TO THE CITY COUNCIL COMBINING THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CITY AUDITOR AND ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CITY

AUDITOR. THIS CHANGE WILL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE STRUCTURE OF OTHER OFFICES IN CITY HALL/AND WILL RESULT IN A CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS TO THE CITY. JOHN RYAN ASSUMED THE POSITION OF ACTING FINANCE DIRECTOR THIS PAST JUNE/UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE HAS PROVEN BY HIS PERFORMANCE TO BE WORTHY OF THE POSITION, AND I WILL BE SUBMITTING HIS NAME TO THE CITY COUNCIL/FOR THE THREE YEAR APPOINTMENT.

IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE A DETAILED PLAN FOR INTERNAL REORGANIZATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT WILL BE RELEASED. THIS PLAN WILL DEFINE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND STRUCTURE THE DEPARTMENT INTO FOUR SEPARATE DIVISIONS. THIS WILL PROVIDE THE ADMINISTRATION WITH TOTAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF ALL OF ITS EMPLOYEES/AND A MORE STREAMLINED STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

WE MUST GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO UPDATING THE ASSESSORS OFFICE. RECENT LEGISLATION HAS CHANGED THE METHODS OF EVALUATING REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY/AND HAS SET VERY STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PERSONNEL OF THE ASSESSORS OFFICE. WE MUST ADDRESS THIS ISSUE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE/TOWARDS A REALISTIC REORGANIZATION PROGRAM WHICH WILL EFFECT SAVINGS WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION.

A CONCERTED EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO SET A COURSE OF ACTION FOR THE CENTENNIAL PARK/ WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BE A VIABLE PROGRAM FOR OUR CITY,/ AND WILL PROVIDE JOBS WHILE BOARDENING THE TAX BASE. I INSTRUCTED MR. GARBER, OUR NEW DIRECTOR, UPON HIS ARRIVAL ON THE JOB/ THAT A DETAILED STUDY HAD TO BE DONE TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEMS AND PROVIDE US WITH THE MOST EFFECTIVE COURSE OF ACTION. I FEEL HIS RECENT EVALUATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL PARK/ ADDRESSES THE PROBLEMS AND PROVIDES US WITH A SOUND AND REASONABLE APPROACH TO MAKING THE PARK A SUCCESS.

A MARKET STUDY IS NOW UNDER WAY AND A WORK PLAN HAS BEEN DEVELOPED/ FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF OUR DOWNTOWN AREAS. THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD TOMORROW NIGHT TO EXPLAIN THE PROGRAM, AND HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE A START TOWARDS IMPROVING THE APPEARANCE OF OUR DOWNTOWN AND CREATING A MORE VIABLE BUSINESS DISTRICT.

OUR SANITARY LANDFILL FACILITY HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONCERN FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND STATE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN THREATENING CLOSURE. I HAVE HIRED THE ENGINEERING FIRM OF TIGHE AND BOND/ TO DEVELOP AN OVERALL PLAN TO TRY AND CONVINCE THE STATE/ THAT WE CAN MEET THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS, ALLOWING US TO REMAIN OPEN UNTIL A DECISION IS MADE ON RESOURCE RECOVERY. CLOSURE WOULD IMPOSE A SERIOUS FINANCIAL BURDEN ON OUR CITY.

THE ISSUE OF THE CONNECTOR ROAD KEEPS SURFACING. AFTER BEING ELECTED MAYOR, SOME PEOPLE THOUGHT I WOULD CHANGE MY POSITION. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU ONCE AGAIN THAT MY POSITION IS THE SAME TODAY, AS IT WAS ELEVEN YEARS AGO, AND I JOIN WITH THE CITY COUNCIL IN A UNITED EFFORT IN OPPOSITION TO THE CONNECTOR.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS IN SOME CASES HAVE GONE WELL AND IN OTHER INSTANCES HAVE COME TO A STALEMATE. IN THOSE AREAS WHERE AGREEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN REACHED, I WANT TO MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO BE AS FAIR AS IT POSSIBLY CAN, WITHIN THE ABILITY OF ITS PEOPLE TO PAY. I WILL NOT AGREE TO ANY CONTRACT OR DEMAND THAT WILL HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES ON THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF OUR CITY. I REALIZE THERE ARE INEQUITIES IN OUR SALARY STRUCTURE, AND I HOPE THE RANK AND FILE RECOGNIZE THAT THESE PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED IN ONE YEAR.

THE MOST GRATIFYING ACHIEVEMENT OF MY FIRST EIGHT MONTHS IN OFFICE/WAS THE APPROVAL OF OUR APPLICATION FOR TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION DOLLARS IN OUR SMALL CITIES GRANT. IT WAS APPARENT TO ME UPON FIRST TAKING OFFICE/THAT IN ORDER TO PUMP VITALITY INTO OUR DOWNTOWN AREAS/IT WAS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN FUNDING FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN/THE PROPERTY TAX ROLLS. REALIZING THAT OCTOBER 1, 1979 WAS THE DEADLINE/FOR FILING THE APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT,/ WHICH IS A COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT, AND WHICH WE DID NOT HAVE THE IN-HOUSE CAPABILITIES TO DEVELOP, I RETAINED THE VERY CAPABLE SERVICES OF URBAN CONSULTANTS/TO EMBARK ON A CRASH PROGRAM TO MEET THE DEADLINE. THIS GRANT PROVIDES TO THE CITIZENS OF OUR CITY \$940,000 FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION,/ \$800,000 FOR STREET IMPROVEMENT,/ \$165,000 FOR HOME INSULATION,/ \$75,000 FOR A RECREATIONAL FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AT BRESNAHAN COURT, PLUS ADDITIONAL FUNDS/TO PROVIDE US WITH THE CAPABILITIES/TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK OUT SOURCES OF FUNDING TO IMPROVE OUR CITY/WITH LESS DEPENDENCE ON THE OVER BURDENED LOCAL TAXPAYER. *Jack Murphy*
Specials Thanks

THE PREPARATION OF THE 1981 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET/WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK. DEPARTMENT HEADS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INSTRUCTED AS TO WHAT I EXPECT, NOT ONLY A FOUR PERCENT CAP, BUT ALSO TO PRIORITIZE THE ITEMS THEY FEEL WOULD HAVE TO BE ELIMINATED/TO MAINTAIN THE SAME LEVEL OF FUNDING AS THIS YEAR. I INTEND TO WORK WITH THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE BUDGET PROCESS AND WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE TOWARDS DEVELOPING A BUDGET THAT MEETS OUR GOALS.

I WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE MY ADDRESS/ BY QUOTING FROM
REMARKS MADE AT MY FIRST INAUGURAL, "I HAVE BEEN ELECTED
BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND I
INTEND TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE/ TO PROVIDE THE TYPE OF
LEADERSHIP THAT WILL MAKE YOU BELIEVE/ THAT YOUR CONCERNS
ARE MINE. LEADERSHIP AS I SEE IT/ DOES NOT MEAN BEING ALL
THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE/ AND MAKING PROMISES I CANNOT FULFILL,
RATHER IT MEANS BEING FIRM WHEN NECESSARY/ BUT ALSO BEING
FAIR. IT MEANS MAKING DIFFICULT DECISIONS IN THE BEST
INTEREST OF THE CITY/ RATHER THAN THE INTEREST OF A SELECTED
FEW. I AM PREPARED TO PROVIDE THAT TYPE OF LEADERSHIP".

